



North Dakota

FARM REPORTER

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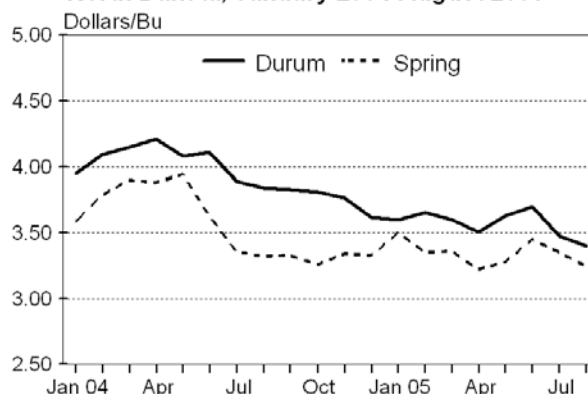
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AGRICULTURAL PRICES

North Dakota
 The Index of Prices Received
 for All Farm Products in August

is 116 percent of the 1990-1992 base. This is down 5 percent from last year and 3 percent below two years ago. The All Crops Index, at 117 percent of the base, is down 5 percent from August 2004 and the All Livestock Index, at 111 percent, is down 6 percent from last year. August indexes are calculated using preliminary mid-month prices.

Durum & Other Spring Wheat Prices Received North Dakota, January 2004-August 2005



Prices Received by Farmers, August 2005

Item	Unit	North Dakota			United States			Effective U.S. Parity Price Aug 2005
		Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary	
		Aug 2004	July 2005	Aug 2005	Aug 2004	July 2005	Aug 2005	
		--- Dollars ---			--- Dollars ---			- Dollars
Wheat, All	Bu	3.38	3.37	3.25	3.27	3.20	3.21	10.40
Durum	Bu	3.84	3.48	3.40	3.86	3.71	3.41	NA
Other Spring	Bu	3.32	3.35	3.25	3.38	3.45	3.33	NA
Winter	Bu	2.70	2.54	2.53	3.19	3.15	3.11	NA
Corn	Bu	2.53	1.88	1.75	2.34	2.11	1.89	6.99
Oats	Bu	1.04	1.18	1.15	1.32	1.59	1.53	4.15
Barley, All	Bu	2.25	1.90	2.02	2.77	2.38	2.75	7.08
Feed	Bu	1.46	1.37	1.30	1.83	1.98	1.90	NA
Malting	Bu	2.50	2.17	2.20	3.06	2.66	3.03	NA
Sunflower, All	Cwt	14.80	15.00	15.20	13.60	15.10	13.30	NA
Oil	Cwt	12.80	14.30	13.80	NA	NA	NA	NA
Non-oil	Cwt	18.70	19.30	1/	NA	NA	NA	NA
Baled Hay, All ^{2/}	Ton	58.00	54.00	53.00	92.20	99.70	99.70	NA
Alfalfa ^{2/}	Ton	64.00	59.00	59.00	99.30	109.00	109.00	NA
Other ^{2/}	Ton	49.00	40.00	37.00	71.90	75.90	74.80	NA
Canola	Cwt	11.30	10.50	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Flaxseed	Bu	6.99	10.40	8.50	6.90	10.40	8.50	14.10
Soybeans	Bu	6.58	6.32	6.00	6.83	6.65	6.09	16.90
Dry Edible Beans, All	Cwt	17.70	20.90	18.00	20.90	25.40	22.40	53.00
Navy	Cwt	18.20	1/	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pinto	Cwt	17.40	20.90	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Potatoes, All	Cwt	5.80	6.50	3/	5.77	8.69	7.51	15.70
Fresh ^{4/}	Cwt	9.40	3/	NA	8.44	13.66	NA	NA
Processing	Cwt	5.40	6.50	NA	4.62	5.18	NA	NA
Beef Cattle	Cwt	83.70	68.30	77.00	87.70	85.30	84.70	181.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt	107.00	93.00	95.00	91.00	88.40	88.00	NA
Cows	Cwt	55.20	55.00	55.00	54.70	53.80	51.90	NA
Calves	Cwt	136.00	135.00	137.00	131.00	132.00	131.00	246.00
Sheep	Cwt	35.00	41.00	NA	37.30	40.30	NA	88.60
Lambs	Cwt	100.00	117.00	NA	97.90	109.00	NA	220.00
Hogs	Cwt	55.20	50.90	NA	55.30	49.80	50.00	112.00

1/ Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. 2/ Alfalfa, other and all hay are preliminary prices only. 3/ Insufficient sales to establish a price. 4/ Fresh market prices only, includes table stock. NA=Not applicable.

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AGRICULTURAL PRICES (Continued)

United States

The August All Farm Products Index is 117 percent of its 1990-92 base, down 1 percent from the July index and 2 percent below the August 2004 index. The All Crops Index is 116, down 2 percent from July and 2 percent below August 2004. The Livestock and Products Index, at 117, is 1 percent below last month and down 4 percent from August 2004.

Index Numbers of Farm Prices, August 2005

Indexes and Ratios	North Dakota			United States		
	Aug 2004	July 2005	Aug 2005	Aug 2004	July 2005	Aug 2005
Prices Received	(1990-92 = 100)					
All Farm Products	122	112	116	120	118	117
Crops	123	112	117	119	118	116
Food Grains	128	120	124	112	107	107
Feed Grains & Hay	129	96	113	109	105	99
Oil Bearing Crops ^{1/}	129	127	132	121	119	108
Potatoes & Dry Beans ^{2/}	101	91	102	100	147	128
Livestock	118	114	111	122	118	117
Meat Animals	116	108	107	121	116	116
Dairy Products	131	134	131	114	113	113
Other Livestock Products ^{3/}	113	113	113	130	126	125
Prices Paid	NA	NA	NA	135	141	141
Ratio ^{4/}	NA	NA	NA	89	84	83

^{1/} Includes non-oil sunflower. ^{2/} North Dakota includes sugarbeets. ^{3/} United States excludes wool. ^{4/} Ratio of Index of Prices Received to Index of Prices Paid. NA=Not applicable.

MARKETING YEAR AVERAGE PRICES

North Dakota

The 2004 Marketing Year Average (MYA) prices for spring, durum, and winter wheat, rye, oats, and barley were all lower than their 2003 MYA prices while hay was higher. Spring wheat declined 21 cents from 2003 to \$3.36 per bushel. Alfalfa hay, at \$63.50 per ton, increased from 2003 but was down from 2002's MYA price of \$70.00.

**Small Grains & Hay
Marketing Year Average Prices**

Item	Unit	North Dakota		United States	
		2003	2004	2003	2004
----- Dollars per Unit -----					
Wheat, All	Bu	3.63	3.40	3.40	3.40
Spring	Bu	3.57	3.36	3.62	3.51
Durum	Bu	3.93	3.71	3.97	3.85
Winter	Bu	3.01	2.76	3.27	3.32
Rye	Bu	2.12	2.00	2.93	3.26
Oats	Bu	1.33	1.18	1.48	1.48
Barley, All	Bu	2.59	2.12	2.83	2.48
Feed	Bu	1.95	1.46	2.29	1.73
Malting	Bu	2.78	2.40	3.08	2.81
Hay, All	Ton	52.50	58.50	85.50	92.00
Alfalfa	Ton	58.00	63.50	90.80	98.60
Other	Ton	41.00	46.00	70.90	74.60

FARM LABOR

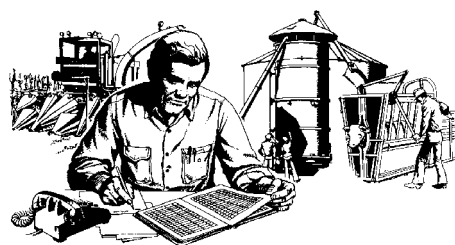
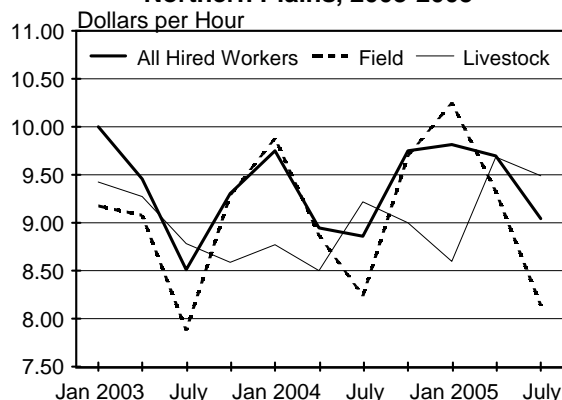
Northern Plains

There were 45,000 hired workers on farms and ranches in the Northern Plains (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 15 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average of \$9.05 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 19 cents from last year. Field workers received an average of \$8.15 per hour, down 9 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.49 per hour compared with \$9.22 a year earlier.

United States

There were 1,332,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of July 10-16, 2005, up 2 percent from a year ago. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.39 per hour during the July 2005 reference week, up 35 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.62 per hour, up 28 cents from last July, while livestock workers earned \$9.25 per hour compared with \$8.74 a year earlier.

**Wage Rates for Hired Workers
Northern Plains, 2003-2005**



FARM COMPUTER USAGE

North Dakota

A total of 58 percent of North Dakota farms now have Internet access, compared with 53 percent in 2003 when Internet access was last measured. This is according to a survey which was conducted of farm and ranch operators in early June. North Dakota farms using computers for their farm business increased from 39 percent in 2003 to 41 percent in 2005. Sixty-five percent of all North Dakota farms have computer access in 2005, up from 61 percent in 2003.

Only 6 percent of North Dakota farms use the Internet to purchase agricultural inputs, down from 8 percent in 2003. Ten percent use the Internet to conduct agricultural marketing activities, equal to 2003.

Two new questions were asked in 2005, including how operators access the Internet. Dial-up was the most common method of accessing the Internet at 62 percent for North Dakota. Twenty-five percent of North Dakota farm operators indicated that they had conducted non-agricultural business via the Internet in the last 12 months.

Internet access for neighboring states has Minnesota at 56 percent; South Dakota at 55 percent; and Montana at 70 percent in 2005.

United States

A total of 51 percent of U.S. farms now have Internet access, compared to 48 percent with Internet access in 2003. Fifty-eight percent of farms have access to a computer in 2005, the same level as 2003. Fifty-five percent of all U.S. farms own or lease a computer, up slightly from 54 percent in 2003. Farms using computers for their farm business increased 1 percent from 2003 to 31 percent in 2005.

In 2005, 79 percent of U.S. farms with sales and government payments of \$250,000 or more have access to a computer, 77 percent own or lease a computer, 66 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 72 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$100,000 and \$249,999, the figures are: 69 percent have access to a computer, 67 percent own or lease a computer, 51 percent are using a computer for their farm business, and 59 percent have Internet access. For farms with sales and government payments between \$10,000 and \$99,999, there were 54 percent that reported having computer access, 51 percent own or lease a computer, 33 percent use a computer for their farm business, and 46 percent have Internet access.

**Farm Computer Usage: By Type of Farm,
Selected States/Regions and United States, 2001, 2003 and 2005**

States/Regions	Percent of Farms								
	With Computer Access			Using Computers for Farm Business			With Internet Access		
	2001	2003	2005	2001	2003	2005	2001	2003	2005
--- Percent ---									
North Dakota	59	61	65	38	39	41	47	53	58
Minnesota	55	64	61	34	34	32	40	52	56
Montana	71	72	75	43	44	40	57	63	70
South Dakota	56	61	66	31	33	40	43	45	55
North Central ^{1/}	58	61	60	32	34	34	44	50	51
Crop Farms	58	61	62	33	34	35	44	50	53
Livestock Farms	59	61	58	32	33	33	43	49	50
West ^{2/}	67	70	69	39	41	36	54	60	62
Crop Farms	67	69	67	41	43	37	54	59	60
Livestock Farms	69	70	71	38	39	36	56	60	64
US ^{3/}	55	58	58	29	30	31	43	48	51
Crop Farms	57	60	60	31	33	33	44	49	52
Livestock Farms	55	56	57	27	27	29	42	47	50

1/ Includes IL, IN, IA, KS, MI, MN, MO, NE, ND, OH, SD, and WI. 2/ Includes AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY. 3/ Excludes AK and HI.

DATA USERS' MEETING

Give Your Feedback On USDA and Economic Data

**USDA Data Users' Meeting
October 17, 2005**

Embassy Suites at O'Hare
Chicago, Illinois

Conference Registration:

www.usda.gov/nass/events/forum/forum101705.htm

Hotel Reservations:

(847) 678-4000, ask for Industry Outlook group rate.

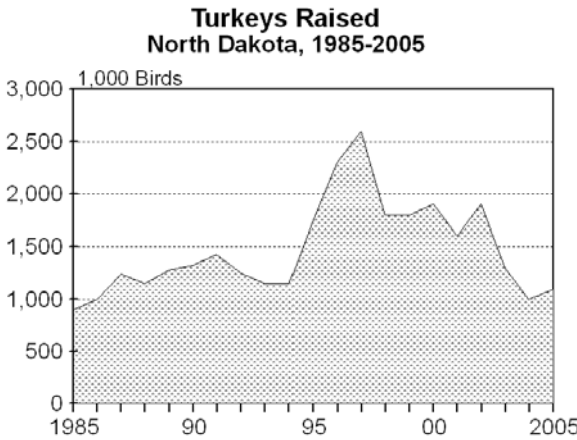
The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for data users. The purpose is to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For help with registration or additional information contact David Knopf, 800-626-3134 or david_knopf@nass.usda.gov.

TURKEYS RAISED

North Dakota

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in North Dakota during 2005 is 1.10 million birds. This is up 10 percent from the 1.00 million birds raised in 2004 and transforms the current trend of declining production since 1997 when a record high 2.60 million turkeys were raised.



United States

The preliminary estimate of turkeys raised in the United States during 2005 is 256 million, down 3 percent from the number raised during 2004. Minnesota, at 44.5 million birds, is expected to raise the largest number of any state, showing a 2 percent decrease from last year. North Carolina ranks second with 36.0 million birds, down 8 percent from 2004.

Turkeys Raised: Selected States and United States, 2004-2005

State	2004	2005	2005 as % of 2004
	--- 1,000 Birds ---		-- Percent --
North Dakota	1,000	1,100	110
Minnesota	45,500	44,500	98
North Carolina	39,000	36,000	92
United States	263,207	256,247	97

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